

Message Text

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43 42

ACTION SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9476

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 6145

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS PLOS, EFIS

SUBJ: LOS TUNA INITIATIVE

FOR DEP SEC INGERSOLL AND UNDER SECY MAW

1. US TEAM OF CLINGAN, BUSBY, HULL AND EMBOFFS MET 30 JUNE WITH COLOMBIAN DEL WHICH INCLUDED AMB JOAQUIN FONSECA, AMB JOSE JOAQUIN GORI, GABRIEL DE J ACEVEDO (DIRGEN OF FISHERIES), AND OTHERS. TALKS FOCUSED ON US PROPOSAL FOR SEP MEETING OF REG AND FISHING STATES TO ATTEMPT TO FIND SOLUTION TO LOS AND REG TUNA PROBLEM.

2. FOL PRESENTATION OF US PROPOSAL, COL DEL STATED GOC WAS NOT PRESENTLY A MEMBER OF IATTC SINCE THEY WANTED TO ULTIMATELY EXPAND THEIR FISHING FLEET TO INCLUDE TUNA VESSELS AND FELT THAT IATTC MEMBERSHIP WOULD HAMPER THESE EFFORTS. GOC IS NOW PLANNING TO ENTER THE TUNA FISHERY AND COL DEL WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH APPROACH OUTLINED BY US. THEY STATED THAT FROM GOC POINT OF VIEW THIS WAS "EXACT MOMENT" FOR THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH AN EFFORT. THEY ASKED FOR A FORMAL INVITATION TO THE SEP MEETING THROUGH DIP CHANNELS AND STATED THEY WOULD ATTEND AND WOULD COOPERATE IN
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EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE TUNA PROBLEM.

3. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES USSIDE BRIEFLY OUTLINED TENTATIVE PRINCIPLES THAT MIGHT BE EMBODIED IN REGIONAL APPROACH, INCLUDING MANAGEMENT BY REGIONAL ORG WITHIN AND BEYOND THE ECONOMIC ZONE, CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC STAFF, A LIMITED COASTAL STATE PREFERENCE WITHIN THE ZONE, AN ALLOCATION SYSTEM WHICH WOULD INCLUDE COUNTRY QUOTAS, FULL UTILIZATION OF THE STOCK AS A WHOLE, A UNIFORM LICENSING SYSTEM, SELECTIVE MEMBERSHIP, AND A FLEXIBLE VOTING SYSTEM WHICH WOULD PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE COASTAL STATES. US SIDE MADE CLEAR THAT LOS ARTICLE ITSELF SHOULD BE VERY GENERAL AND THAT THESE PRINCIPLES PERTAINED TO REG NEGOTIATION. COLOMBIAN SIDE ASKED FOR PAPER CONTAINING PRINCIPLES AND US SIDE AGREED TO DEVELOP AND FORWARD.

4. US SIDE RAISED QUESTION OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF SEP MEETING WITHOUT MENTIONING NAMES. COL DEL NON-COMMITTAL BUT PROMISED TO CONSIDER QUESTION AND PERHAPS FORWARD SUGGESTION LATER. COL DEL RAISED NO OBJECTION TO INCLUSION OF CANADA, FRANCE AND JAPAN IN SEP MEETING AND SEEMED TO AGREE WITH POINT THAT TO BE EFFECTIVE, ANY REG ORG MUST INCLUDE ALL STATES FISHING THE RESOURCE.

5. ON GENERAL LOS ISSUES, GOC APPEARS NOT TO HAVE FOCUSED ITS ATTENTION ON SINGLE TEXT AS YET, AND ALTHOUGH GIVEN OPPORTUNITY, DID NOT RAISE OTHER ISSUES EXCEPT TO INQUIRE AS TO US VIEWS ON ANADROMOUS ARTILE.

6. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION, GORI INDICATED THAT HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY AUSTRALIA (LAUTERPACHT) TO BE INTERMEDIARY WITH HARDLINE LATINS WITH RESPECT TO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT ISSUE. GORI HAS AGREED, BUT HE HAS NOT YET DONE ANYTHING IN THIS REGARD.

7. COMMENT. TALKS EXTREMELY USEFUL AND TEAM GAINED IMPRESSION THAT COLOMBIA ANXIOUS TO PARTICIPATE IN A REG ORG WHICH ACCOMMODATES THEIR INTERESTS. FOR INSTANCE, GOC DEL STATED AT ONE POINT THAT IF WE CANNOT SOLVE PROBLEMS LIKE THIS ONE, THERE MAY NOT BE AN LOS TREATY. AS A COUNTRY WITH A STRONG LOS INVOLVEMENT BUT NO VESTED TUNA INTEREST AS YET, THEY COULD PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN SETTING UP A REG ORG. VAKY

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